

News from Legislator Joseph C. Lorigo



PROUDLY SERVING THE 10TH DISTRICT
AURORA, COLDEN, HOLLAND, MARILLA,
WEST SENECA & WALES



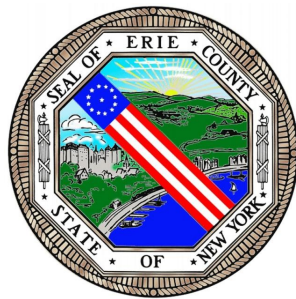
Spring 2012

Reducing financial burden on future generations

The Erie County Legislature found itself at a crossroad in February, facing the decision of whether to pay a \$7 million lawsuit settlement with cash, borrowed funds or a combination of both.

Legislator Lorigo, along with his Minority Caucus colleagues, stood strong in its position that the money should not be borrowed while the County has cash available. The County Executive agreed to pay the settlement in cash after learning the county received \$14 million more sales tax revenue that budgeted.

"This was the right decision. Had we chosen to borrow for this settlement, we would have pushed yet another financial burden onto future generations. The County's



long-term debt needs to be kept under control and the credit card reserved for appropriate situations. This was not time to add more debt and cost taxpayers more when cash was a viable option," Legislator Lorigo said.

Utilizing taxpayer dollars most appropriately remains Legislator Lorigo's focus. To best achieve that, Legislator Lorigo continues to schedule District Outreach Meetings to

meet with and talk to residents about their concerns and any issues they may have.

Since taking office in January, Legislator Lorigo has held several meetings in community facilities.

"I feel it is important to spend time in the towns and villages, talking with residents about their concerns and needs. District Outreach Meetings are a good opportunity to meet with residents throughout the community. I am always available to discuss County issues and answer any questions you may have," Lorigo said.

District Outreach Meetings are announced on Legislator Lorigo's website and Facebook page.

Hot Dog Roast to benefit Explore and More

Legislator Lorigo will host a Hot Dog Roast Fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 20 at Explore and More Children's Museum, 300 Gleed Ave., East Aurora.

The fundraiser is held during Explore and More's popular "Touch-A-Truck" event.

"This is a great family event where kids can explore a variety of trucks and vehicles, as well as play in the museum. There are other activities as well," Legislator Lorigo said. "For a \$1, attendees can get a hot dog and a bottle of water. All proceeds directly support Explore and More."



For additional information, visit the website www.exploreandmore.org.

Special points of interest:

- MONTHLY COLUMNS DISCUSS COUNTY ISSUES.
- COUNTY PARKS AND GOLF COURSES FEATURE GREAT ACTIVITIES.
- RADON TESTING KIT \$8 THROUGH COUNTY.

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Visit www.erie.gov/legislature to review items, agendas and minutes, as well as other information related to the Erie County Legislature.

Open and Transparent Government discussed in column

Each month, Legislator Lorigo writes a column discussing a county issue. Copies can be read the third week of the month in the East Aurora Bee and West Seneca Bee, as well as online on Legislator Lorigo's website.

The January 2012 topic addressed the Legislature's new 11 districts and Legislator's Lorigo's plan for representing his new territory.

In February, the focus turned

to the appointment of an interim comptroller and the faults found within the process.

His most recent column, printed in March, discussed how the Legislature had taken steps to maintain transparency.

"Residents are now able to review each item, in its entirety, from the moment it comes before the Legislature. The Legislative Director for the Minority Caucus invested

a great deal of time and effort to ensure that not only is the Legislature in compliance with the law, but that files are as transparent and accessible to the public as possible," Legislator Lorigo stated.

To view the Legislature's website, visit www.erie.gov/legislature. Questions about the website or an item can be directed to his office: call (716) 858-8922 or email joseph.lorigo@erie.gov.

Mark your calendars - Guided walks through County Parks

Erie County will once again hold its Guided Walks in County Parks Program. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and attendees are lead on a picturesque walk through the county's beautiful parks.

Information on how to get healthy and stay healthy will be



available at each of the walks. Health screenings, including

blood pressure and BMW readings will be free of charge.

For additional information, contact the Parks Department at 858-7226 or visit www.erie.gov/parks.

Walks will be held on the following days:

- May 19 - Chestnut Ridge
- June 2 - Como Lake
- June 9 - Akron Falls
- June 16 - Emery
- June 23 - Times Beach Nature Preserve
- June 30 - Sprague Brook

Elma Meadows Golf Course offers 18 hole, par 70 play



Elma Meadows Golf Course is located at 1711 Girdle Road, just minutes from the Jamison Road exit off the 400.

Whether you are a seasoned player or a novice, Elma Meadows Golf Course offers a great experience to play 9 or 18 holes.

Golf passes are on sale; prices vary for regular, senior and youth passes. To review season rates and daily fees, visit www.erie.gov/

parks or call 652-5475.

The course opened the first week of April and will stay open into the fall, as weather permits.

The course is located at 1711 Girdle Road, Elma near Rice Road.

The phone number for the

Golf Course Tee Time Reservation System is 858-8585.

The County's website also has information on its other course, Grover Cleveland, as well as league schedules, arranging a golf outing, and rules and policies.

Valentines for Veterans generated thousands of cards

In the days leading up to Valentine's Day, Legislator Lorigo collected hundreds of handmade valentines created by local school children for area veterans.

Legislator Lorigo wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the following District 10 schools that participated:

- Queen of Heaven
- Our Lady Sacred Heart
- Northwood Elementary
- Allendale Elementary

- Annunciation School
- Holland H.O. Brumsted Elementary School

The students took part in a county-wide effort that included more than 30 schools and generated thousands of valentines for veterans in several towns. Some of the cards were sent to servicemen and women who were injured and are recovering in a Texas hospital.



Veterans from American Legion Post No. 735 thanked the students for thinking of them.

\$8 radon test kits available through County

Homeowners are encouraged to test their homes for radon gas, and the process is simple and affordable through Erie County. Request forms for a radon test kit are available through Legislator Lorigo's office. The cost is \$8 and covers all lab fees. To request a form, please contact Legislator Lorigo at 858-8922 or email joseph.lorigo@erie.gov.

"A resolution approved by the Legislature recently, outlines a number of areas that have been listed as

hotbeds for radon gas and unfortunately, many of the towns, including Marilla, Aurora and Holland, are in my district. This is an issue that we have be mindful of and to take seriously," Legislator Lorigo said.

Radon is a gas that comes from the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. Radon is a leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, but for many who are affected, they don't even know the danger is present. Radon is invisible

and odorless. If your home has an elevated level, you and your family's health is at risk.

An expert on the subject from the County's Environment and Planning Department is available to speak with homeowner associations, community groups, churches or anyone who has a concern and is seeking additional information on radon. To schedule an informational meeting, please contact Legislator Lorigo's office.

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Photos from the Community



Legislator Lorigo served as the guest speaker at the West Seneca Kiwanis Club's March 7 meeting. He is pictured with President Don Rauscher and Kiwanis Past Lt. Governor & Program Chair Eric Paul.



Students from Marilla Primary School in the Iroquois School District listened as Legislator Lorigo read, "Seed, Soil and Sun" on March 19 during Agricultural Literacy Week.



Touring the business district along Main Street in East Aurora with Greater East Aurora Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gary Grote in January.



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Thank you for taking the time to read through my first newsletter and take an interest in County Government. It doesn't quite seem possible that it has been three months since I took office, but here we are, one quarter of the way through the year.

This newsletter is distributed electronically and is available for review on my website to not only save taxpayer dollars by eliminating postage and paper usage, but is also environmentally conscientious.

Newsletters will be distributed quarterly, and press releases and statements are always available on my website and Facebook page. I am committed to communicating information from the Legislature with residents. Please let me know if there is a better way that I can ensure that my message reaches you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Lorigo".

Proclamations presented to outstanding individuals, groups

At every session, the Erie County Legislature honors individual's and groups' accomplishments with proclamations. In January, February and March, the following recipients were recognized:

Mary Feldmann, named Chamber Member of the Year by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce

Colleen Christmann, named Educator of the Year by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce

West Seneca C.E.R.T., named Community Service Organization of the Year by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce

James Manley, named Citizen of the Year by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce

Financial Trust Federal Credit Union, named Business of the Year by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce

John and Victoria Frontera, married 72 years and named the New York State Winners of the Longest Married Couple Project

Jordan Levy for his work with the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation



Crista Botticello was recognized by the Legislature for establishing a scholarship to promote fashion design. She is the owner of Ooo La La Boutique in East Aurora.

Nominations accepted for Citizen of the Month award

Legislator Lorigo is accepting nominations for the Citizen of the Month Award. Created in January 2012 by the Legislature's Chairwoman, the award honors an outstanding citizen from each of the 11 districts. Legislator Lorigo's honoree will be recognized in December. To nominate someone for the honor, please contact Legislator Lorigo at 858-8922 or email joseph.lorigo@erie.gov.